

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1795 - January 6 2012

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1795 with a release date of January 6th, 2012 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. ARISSat One falls from orbit after bringing the delight of ham radio to peoples world-wide; the last B-P-L system in the USA to use the ham bands shuts down; the ARRL seeks input on a new bandplan for 60 meters; Samoa and Tokelau cross the International dateline and ham radio honors inventors Reginald Fessenden and Raymond Heising, Find out the details are on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1795 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ARISSAT ONE MISSION COMES TO A CLOSE

The mission of ARISSat-1 has come to an end. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with the details:

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Reception reports indicate that ARISSat-1 fell from the sky on Wednesday, January 4th. Its predicted impact point was in an open area of the South Atlantic west of Angola.

The last full telemetry captured and uploaded to the ARISSatTLM web site was at 6:02 UTC as the satellite passed over Japan. These reports showed that the temperature aboard ARISSat One had been rising as atmospheric drag began to affect the satellite. Final temperatures received showed that the Internal Housekeeping Unit was at 167 degrees Farenheight and was rising.

The last time ARISSat One was heard at the Amateur Radio Newsline studio facility in California was on January 2nd at about 18:15 Pacific Standard Time. During that transmission the satellite was at about 127 statute miles in altitude and several hundred miles West of Los Angeles. Its signal sounded like this:

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ARISSat-1 audio

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Two days later, during the 8:42 UTC pass over Russia, RN3ZF sent in a reception report to the ARISSat-1 monitoring website. That posting stated telemetry was absent, voice messages were not legible and interrupted. It is pretty much assumed that RN3ZF most likely witnessed the last minutes in the life of satellite.

ARISSat-1 was deployed from the International Space Station on August

3, 2011 during a space walk by two Russian Cosmonauts. It marked the first ever test flight of an AMSAT designed Software Defined Transponder. One with the ability to transmit simultaneous FM voice on its downlink cycling between student messages, spoken telemetry and SSTV from cameras on the spaceframe. Students from around the world provided the voice announcements. The satellite also carried a student experiment from Kursk State University in Russia which measured atmospheric density.

ARISSat-1 was likely one of the most popular ham radio satellites ever placed on orbit and its one that is definitely going to be missed.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the Newsroom in Los Angeles.

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ARISSat-1 was originally to be named Suitsat 2. The entire project was re-engineered after the Russian spacesuit that was to become Suitsat 2 was prematurely jettisoned from the International Space Station before it could be fitted with ham radio gear. (ANS, WA4SCA, ARNewsline(tm))

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THE BPL FIGHT: IBEC CLOSES DOWN BPL OPERATIONS DUE TO FINANCIAL LOSSES

One of the very few remaining United States operators of a Broadband over Powerline Internet access system has announced that it is shutting down. A notice that appeared on the International Broadband Electric Communications web site said that due to its inability to overcome financial damage from the April 27th 2011 tornadoes that ravaged some of its service areas in Alabama, it regrets that it has no other option than to close its doors and cease operations.

International Broadband Electric Communications better known by the acronym IBEC went on to say the customer support would cease on January 16th and urged its customer base to seek alternative Internet access as soon as possible. It also stated that it sincerely cares about the Internet needs of rural America and detests watching the national carriers ignore the communications needs of so many hard working families across the nation.

IBEC was headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama. It provided Internet service using broadband over power line technology to rural communities in several states including Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana as well as Alabama. With its departure, the ARRL says that there is no other Broadband over Powerline system in the United States that uses the amateur bands in their deployments. You can read the IBEC closure announcement on its website at www.ibec.net. (Various news reports)

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RESTRUCTURING: ARRL SEEKING INPUT ON A 60 METER BANDPLAN

The ARRL is seeking input on a proposed new bandplan for the 5 MHz or 60 meter band.

As previously reported, last November the FCC released a Report and Order detailing new rules for the 5 MHz Amateur Radio band. This announcement brought with it a number of changes for 60 meter operators.

Changes include substituting a channel at 5 point 358 point 5 MHz for 5 point 368 MHz previously authorized. The effective radiated limit in the 60 meter band will be raised by 3 dB to 100 W Peak Envelope Power relative to a half-wave dipole. Also, three additional emission types are authorized. These are Data, RTTY and CW will be authorized as soon as an effective date for a rules change is announced.

The ARRL says that considering the expected increase in 60 meter activity when the FCC's Report and Order finally takes effect, the League is asking for feedback to assist in crafting a proposed band plan. If you're a 60-meter operator, e-mail your suggestions to hf-band-plan (at) arrl (dot) org. You can also participate in an online survey at tinyurl.com/60-meter-plan. (ARRL)

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TIME TRAVEL: SAMOA AND TOKELAU JUMP INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

The tiny South Pacific nation of Samoa and its neighbor Tokelau have jumped forward in time crossing westward over the International Date Line. This, to align themselves with their other 21st century trading partners throughout the region.

At the stroke of midnight on December 29th time in Samoa and Tokelau leapt forward to December 31st which was New Year's Eve. For Samoa's 186,000 citizens, and the 1,500 in Tokelau, Friday December 30, 2011 simply ceased to exist.

Of course this does complicate the QSL'ing process for ham radio contacts made with either of these entities on the dates that were simply cast away. It will be interesting to see how the DXCC and other awards operations handle this situation. (Media Network)

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NCDXF CONTRIBUTES \$15000 TO HK0NA OPERATION

The Northern California DX Foundation has made a \$15,000 (dollar) contribution to the HK0NA Malpelo Island DXpedition which is scheduled take place from January 21st to February 5th or 6th.

According to team co-leader Bob Allphin, K4UEE, an advance team of four members departed on Christmas day with nearly 4 tons of gear to transport to the island. They will establish two camps and set up antennas and stations which should be ready when the main team arrives January 21st.

Allphin says that no expedition has ever operated from the top of the island before. Because of this western North America, Asia and Oceania

have a much higher need for it.

For the past 40 years the Northern California DX Foundation has funded major DXpeditions to many of the worlds most wanted entities. Malpelo was rated as number 12 on the DX Magazine's Most Wanted List for 2011. More about this massive DX operation is on-line at HK0NA dot com.

The Northern California DX Foundation has also sent a \$500 Christmas gift to the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand's HS0AC Club This to help rebuild and re-equip the HS0AC station that was destroyed by recent flooding.

We will have more DX related news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (NCDXF, W0GJ)

★★

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the K3ZFF repeater of the Boise County Amateur Radio Club serving Boise, Idaho.

(5 sec pause here)

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RESCUE RADIO: FEMA PLANS MORE AND LONGER EAS TESTS

FEMA and the FCC plans to conduct more, longer, national EAS tests. This, according to Damon Penn who is the assistant administrator for National Continuity Programs at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Amateur Radio Newsline's Cheryl Lasek, K9BIK, is here with the details:

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According to news reports FEMA's Damon Penn recently told a congressional panel that after broadcasters report their E-A-S results to the FCC that his agency will be able to determine the extent of the successes and limitations of the November 9th 2011 national test. It will also let FEMA lay plans for future system testing.

Reports say that much of Penn's testimony centered on how to improve the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System known by the acronym IPAWS. This includes making it accessible to people with disabilities. To accomplish this, FEMA has partnered with organizations like National Public Radio to demonstrate that incorporating Common Alerting Protocol enabled technologies to alert persons with access and functional needs. Penn says that National Public Radio is working on using Common Alerting Protocol compliant messages to deliver alerts through N-P-R's digital radio to prototype devices that activate a bed shaker, display an audio alert in text and output the text to a Braille printer.

Penn also noted that FEMA continues to expand and harden Primary Entry

Point stations, going from 36 in 2009 to a current level of 63 with three more under construction. Primary Entry Point stations are those used by the government to originate a nationwide alert. Penn says that by the end of 2012, some 77 Primary Entry Point stations will cover more than 90% of the nation's population.

In his testimony Penn noted that new Primary Entry Point stations all use a standard configuration. This he says means savings in maintenance costs and ensuring ease of movement between these operations. New stations also have the ability to operate under extreme conditions and possess backup equipment and power.

For the Amateur Radio Newslines, I'm Newslines's Cheryl Lasek, K9BIK, in Zion, Illinois.

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Penn said that legacy Primary Entry Point stations will be retrofitted to meet the current Primary Entry Point station resiliency standards.
(RW)

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RADIO DAMAGE: FIRE TAKES PENNSYLVANIA AM STATION OFF THE AIR

A Carlisle, Pennsylvania radio station has been taken off the air due to a fire. WIOO AM Program Director Ray Thomas told W-H-T-M news that everything was fine when he left the building to get lunch at around 1 p.m. on Monday, January 2nd. When he returned sometime later he found the building was on fire.

Operations Manager Eric Swidler says station personnel need to determine how much of the facility's equipment is salvageable and time to locate new studio space. Right now, It's unclear when WIOO will be back on the air. An electrical malfunction has been blamed for the blaze. (RW)

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ENFORCEMET: POPULAR FT. MYERS FLORIDA UNLICENSED STATION SHUT DOWN

Another crackdown on unlicensed radio operations in Florida. Jim Davis, W2JKD, reports:

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A Lee County, Florida, man has been arrested for broadcasting gospel and public service announcements over 107.5 MHz without a license.

The station called itself Dunbar Community Radio, which catered to the Ft. Myers area. It was shut down on December 9th after its operator, Al Knighten, was arrested for illegally broadcasting shows and music.

Fort Myers Police helped with the FCC bust but Captain Dennis Eads admitted it was a difficult task. He told the local press that the station was providing a service, but the bottom line is that it's

operation was illegal.

For his part, station owner Knighten says he doesn't have any regrets. In an interview with WBBH television news he was quoted as saying he believes it was worth it in letting people know we can create something in this community that we can be proud of.

Im Jim Davis, W2JKD.

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What further action will be taken against Knighten by the FCC or the state of Florida is unknown as we go to air. (RBR.com, FCC)

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PUBLIC SERVICE: OPERATORS NEEDED FOR CANADIAN SKI MARATHON

Volunteer operators are needed for the 2012 Canadian Ski Marathon will be held on February 11th and 12th. According to Harold Hamilton, VA3UNK, the event will be held in Western Quebec Province's Ottawa Valley running eastward between Buckingham and Lachute. VA3UNK notes that the marathon depends on ham radio volunteers to provide safety and logistical communication for the benefit of the skiers. If you would like to take part, please e-mail VA3UNK to radio1 (at) admin2 (dot) ca. More information on this event is on-line at www.radio-1.ca. (VA3UNK)

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HAM RADIO ON THE WEB: ARVN RELEASES ARRL/TAPR DCC VIDEO

Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, of Amateur Radio Video News has released video of the entire 2011 ARRL and Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Digital Communications Conference on the World-Wide-Web. Amateur Radio Video News says that it is also trying a shareware approach to the funding of these videos. It is trusting that those who view them will in turn make a contribution to cover their production costs. You can screen these videos and get information on how to support this and future Amateur Radio Video News projects by taking your web browser to www.arvn.tv. (KN4AQ)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: YOUR HELP NEEDED TO KEEP W5KUB NETCASTS ON THE WEB

One of the true good-guys of ham radio says that he needs the financial support of those who watch his live video coverage of the Dayton Hamvention and other major ham radio events at W5KUB dot com to keep these Netcasts coming their way.

Tom Medlin, W5KUB, has been Netcasting the Dayton Hamvention and Huntsville Hamfest for the past 10 years. He says that covering such events is a major undertaking for him that requires several months of preparation for each one that is live streamed. And during the decade he has provide this service he has done so paying almost every penny himself.

Medlin lives in the Memphis, Tennessee area. According to W5KUB, it now costs him close to \$1500 to live stream any of these shows to viewers worldwide. Using the Dayton Hamvention as an example, some of his expenses include over \$500 in hotel charges; \$200 or more in gasoline for his mobile unit and another \$210 for his flea-market parking spaces.

But that's not all. As Tom points out, his video streaming service is not a part of the Hamvention he gets no subsidy from it. So he has to pay another \$70 for tickets for himself and his crew plus about \$400 for food and expendable items such as batteries and the like. And in the end it works out at about \$1500 each time he provides the video streaming service.

According to a posting on his W5KUB.com website, expenses have climbed through the roof over the past few years. As such, he is asking those who view his Netcasts to please consider donating a little to help defray his expenses in providing this service. He says that his goal is to try to raise at least \$1000 in donations this year to go towards the \$1500 expense. If he can get that, he will continue to subsidize the difference.

Tom adds he never wanted to ask for donations but that may be what it takes if he is to continue broadcasting these events. More information on how to support this worthy cause is on-line at tmedlin.com/donate.html. (ARNewsline(tm) from W5KUB.com posting)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: CONTEST UNIVERSITY 2012 - MAY 17 IN DAYTON OHIO

The 2012 Contest University will be held May 17th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dayton, Ohio. This in concurrence with this years Dayton Hamvention.

This years scheduled instructors include such notables as N6TR, K3NA, K7NV, XE1KK, W5WZ and K2RD to name only a few. Also, several past professors will present papers as well.

Early bird registration is open through January 31st. More information is on liner at www.contestuniversity.com. (Contest University)

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HAMVENTION 2012: AWARDS NOMINATIONS DEADLINE IS JANUARY 15

January 15th is the deadline to submit nominations for the Dayton Hamvention 2012 awards for Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement, Technical Excellence and Club of the Year.

The Amateur of the Year Award goes to an individual who has made a long-term, outstanding commitment to the advancement of amateur radio. The Technical Excellence Award is for the person who has made an outstanding technical advancement in the field of amateur radio. The Special Achievement Award honors someone who has made an outstanding

contribution to the advancement of amateur radio, usually someone who has spearheaded a significant project. The Club of the Year award goes to a club which has made a significant contribution to the advancement of amateur radio.

All amateur radio operators are eligible. The Hamvention Awards Committee makes the decision on all awards based in part upon the information it receives. Documentation that informs the Awards Committee of a nominee's accomplishments may include magazine articles, newsletters, newspaper clippings, and even videos. These materials become the property of Hamvention and will not be returned.

Additional details on these awards and a nomination form are available on the Dayton Hamvention Website located in cyberspace at www.hamvention.org/awards.php. Nominations also are accepted via US mail to Dayton Hamvention Awards, PO Box 964, Dayton, Ohio, 45401.

The winners will be recognized at the 2012 Hamvention, which runs May 18th to the 20th at the HARA Arena in the Dayton suburb of Trotwood, Ohio. Hamvention planners say that they hope to see you there.
(Hamventionr)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO FROM SPACE: SETI SEARCH BEGINS ANEW

Researchers have once again undertaken the search for intelligent life on other planets. After lying dormant for more than seven months, radio telescopes run by the SETI Institute have once again begun listening for radio signals from the many alien planet candidates discovered by NASA's Kepler space telescope. Amateur Radio Newsline's Heather Butera-Howell, KB3TZD, is here with the details:

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S-E-T-I or SETI is an acronym that stands for the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. On Monday December 5th, Jill Tarter, who is the director of the Center for SETI Research at the SETI Institute announced that the group has begun re-observing the Kepler worlds using a ground-based radio telescope system.

SETI's Allen Telescope Array or A-T-A is a set of 42 dish type antennas located about 300 miles northeast of San Francisco, California. It began scanning the heavens for electromagnetic signals that could betray the presence of an intelligent alien civilization back in 2007.

In January of 2011 the SETI team started training the Allen array on the 54 planet candidates Kepler had detected what is described by astronomers as the first habitable zone to date. Then it was shut down due to budgetary constraints.

Once funds became available, SETI researchers reactivated the Allen Telescope and have begun using Kepler's discoveries to guide its activities. The Kepler space telescope was placed on-orbit in March 2009. Its mission is to hunt for Earth-size planets in their parent stars' habitable zone. That would position such planets at just the right range of distances from their home star where liquid water and perhaps life as we know could exist.

For the Amateur Radio Newslines, I'm Heather Butera-Howell, KB3TZD, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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SETI and ham radio have had a long association with one another going back several decades. (Space.com)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT FRANCOPHONE FORMED TO REPLACE AMSAT-FRANCE

Amsat-Francophone is the name of a new organization that hopes to replace AMSAT-France which was dissolved in late 2011. Formed in late December, AMSAT-Francophone lists among its goals the development of amateur satellites, technology and systems useful for the construction and / or use of amateur satellites and participation in national and international non-commercial projects in space. The hams behind AMSAT-Francophone are said to be some of the people who originally created AMSAT-France 16 years ago. More in Google translated English is at tinyurl.com/AMSAT-Francophone. (Southgate)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AGEING FO-29 RECOVERED FROM SHUTDOWN

The Fuji Oscar 29 Command Team reports from Japan that they have recovered the satellite after it had experienced a shutdown. This, due to longer eclipse periods causing an under-voltage condition.

Ground station operators have placed FO-29 in a temporary, but stable configuration for further testing and recovery operations. They were to test FO-29 while it is over Japan between December 23rd and the 25th. If no problems occur the Command Team will announce an operating schedule for the satellite for the early part of 2012. (JE9PEL)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NO 40 METER CONTACTS POSSIBLE WITH THE ISS

According to a note from the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station team, rumors that the ISS was having direct contacts on the 40 meter band are false. The reason that this is not possible is that

there is no high frequency radio gear on board the orbiting outpost. What is likely being heard is space station audio being retransmitted by an amateur station on the ground. ARISS notes that WA3NAN which is the club station at the Goddard Spaceflight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, is among those that retransmit shuttle audio. (ANS)

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DX

In DX, word that the long planed Sable Island DXpedition has been postponed. According to AA4VK and WA4DAN, a recent winter storm with twenty foot swells pushed water onto the sand runway making it unusable. Al Wilson, the Officer in Charge of Sable Island made an assessment of the landing area and reported there was no possibility of a flight to the island at that time. Also, resumption of air operations to Sable would depend on how quickly the water would drain from the landing area and if any other storms affect the island. At that point, the DXpedition planners decided to postpone the operation. For the latest on when the operation might be rescheduled please check www.cy0dxpedition.com on the World Wide Web.

Keep an ear open for special event station 4G0LD to be active during 2012. This operation is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Philippine Amateur Radio League. QSL only via the Bureau.

Lastly, listen out for six operators to be active as TN2T from the Republic of the Congo between January 22nd and the 31st. Using three stations, the DXpedition will be active on 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL Manager is M0URX. More information is on-line at www.tn2t.be.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: HONORING FESSENDEN AND HEISING NEAR 500 KC

And finally this week, in honor of inventors Reginald Fessenden and Raymond Heising, a special operation is taking place on 472.5 kHz. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the rest of the details:

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As early as 1900 Reginald Fessenden was experimenting with the direct transmission of human speech. A bit later, during WW1, Raymond Heising was developing a method of constant-current modulation that was one of the earliest forms of Amplitude Modulation.

Brian Justin, WA1ZMS/4 is part of the ARRL's Low Frequency WD2XSH Experimental License. With the cooperation of commercial coastal CW station WNE and the FCC's Office of Engineering Technology Justin has received a Special Temporary Authority with call sign WF9XIH. This to permit AM transmissions with a center carrier frequency of 472.5kHz

until March 1st.

Reginald Fessenden is best remembered for his Christmas Eve 1906 transmission. It was comprised of him playing the violin, playing a recording and him reading a Bible verse. Justin began his operation the week of December 18th of 2011 with a special recreation of that 1906 Christmas Eve transmission:

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Actual transmission audio.

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According to Justin, WF9XIH is licensed for up to 20 watts Effective Radiated Power and he says that every effort is being made to run as close to that ERP as possible. The antenna is a 160 meter dipole that tends to be very lossy when fed by a 600 meter signal. This is the same antenna that he has been using for his WD2XSH/31 operation.

WF9XIH transmissions are being coordinated with W-N-E and any changes to the WNE schedule will alter the WF9XIH operating times. The current plan is to make at least one Heising modulated AM transmission most evenings at 02:00 UTC. Audio loops of speech and a series of stepped audio tones will be used most of the time. The stepped audio tones should make it easier for DX listeners to demodulate them in CW or SSB mode even when they are well beyond the range of the AM signal.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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If you happen to copy a WF9XIH transmission, WA1ZMS requests that you log it at [www \(dot\) 500kc \(dot\) com](http://www.500kc.com). Information about the ongoing WD2XSH/31 operation can be found at tinyurl.com/wd2xsh31 (WA1ZMS/4)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is [newsline\(at\) arnewsline \(dot\) org](mailto:newsline@arnewsline.org). More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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